

[Mrs. Alma R. Miller]

[S - 241?] HAL DUP

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER [Wilbur Cumings?] ADDRESS [Grand Island?]

DATE October [21, 1938?] SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Mrs. [Alma R.?] Miller, 622 W. State St.
2. Date and time of interview Oct. 21, [1938?] 9:30 a.m.
3. Place of interview at the home
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant no one, past acquaintance
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you no one
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Modest home, quite far out on the outskirts of town, five room house, modestly furnished, yet scrupulously clean.

The interview took place in the front or living [room?], in which was a small bungalow piano, with a good supply of [music?], a studio couch, two or three large easy chairs, some flowers, on the walls were pictures of some of the [family?] weddings, and members of the [families?] [familis?] earlier days, and [?] portraying the [religious?] religious [brand?] of home.

Library of Congress

Mrs. Miller a widow lives with her widowed mother, Mrs. Christine ([Lorentson?]) [Hitterbusch Ulhom?] was born in Hall County, Sept. 19, [1875?], Mrs. [Hitterbusch's?] parents having been born in Germany. [??]

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER [Wilbur Cumings?] ADDRESS Grand Island

DATE Oct. 21, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. [Alma R. Miller 622 W.?] State St.

1. Ancestry German
2. Place and date of birth Oklahoma, July 19, 1899. Moved to Hall at age of 11 years.
3. Family German
4. Place lived in, with dates Okla. 1899-191 from 1910 [to?] present, Hall County
5. Education, with dates 10th grade, 1913
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates [Stenographer, writing?]
7. Special skills and interests Writing poems
8. Community and religious activities Christian church
9. Description of informant, Very pleasant, easy to talk too to. [Willing?] to give information.
10. Other points gained in interview, has promised to write up for me some of the old folk songs, games, dances, also to make [appointments?] with other older Germans, that

Library of Congress

cannot speak or write English, and interpret the interviews for me. These prospective informants, are old time [musicians?] and dance callers.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER [Wilbur Cummings?] ADDRESS Grand Island

DATE Oct. 21, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

[NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Alma Miller?] 622 W. State St.

By a chance meeting at a [band?] festival, recently held in Grand Island the informant asked me if I had seen one of her poems that had been published in our local daily papers a few days previous, which I had not. She [then?] invited me [to?] the home to read some of them, [certain?] Over, [two?] of which I am mailing you, for your approval. The one of [?] [Dannebrog?] may be out of my territory, but am sure if it can be used, truly portrays the [Danish?] atmosphere of that community.

The informant some [100?] of these poems, some of which deal with local individual Grand Island people. For instance a [local?] [?] here has a hobby of moving [pictures?] of his vacation trips thru some very interesting country and [scenes?].

If these [writings?] are acceptable, let me know and I will send them in. So many of the older residents that would be of value to me as informants here, have been away on extended vacations and to Hot Springs [Park?]. As the party I am to interview as to dances calls and music, just arrived home Friday, Oct. 21, 1938 from a hospital, and I [think?] it best to wait until he had rested a few days at home, another old musician, would not be home until Tues. or Wed, these people the above informant, Mrs. Miller, offered to accompany me to interview and interpret in case it is necessary. Please write me your opinion [about?] this type of folklore. This community is predominant German, the there

Library of Congress

are quite a number of Russians, some Greek; [am?] sorry I have to write this in long hand but do not have my typewriter with me, as I expect to [mover?] this week-end.

GRAND ISLAND

(Aug. 9, 1938) Sing a song of praise When songs of praise are due I'll [?] [sing?] one of G. I. Join in the chorus, do. I'd like to paint some [pictures?] Like artist people do, But since I'm not an artist I'll write in verse for you. [Our?] state is called Nebr. An Indian name is that From ["Nebrathka"?] or "Flat Water," "Flat Water" is our Platte. Thirty-five couragetus colonists [Searching?] for a home, [Settled?] here in "Fifty-seven" And further did not roam. They suffered, labored, prospered, These persevering few Of hardships had they many The country was new. But they struggled on, undaunted, Through privations, [depredation?] To provide themselves a home land In this, our own fair nation. Many years have passed away, Nebraska's forged ahead, Mute tribute to these colonists Among our honored dead. Our State's now called the ["Whitespot"?] No sales tax do we pay, No ["tokens"?] need we carry To take our joys away. Our city's now the third in size In this fine western State, We're proud of our achievements Some of which # are great. The Federal Moniter Station, The nations radio key, We have here in Grand Island If you [wish?] to come and see. Come see our fine new airport, None finer in the nation, In the center of the U.S.A., Ideal for [Transport?] staion station . We've factories, schools and railroads, And churches not a few, And publish fine newspapers, To bring the news to you. We've fine streets and highways, And fine buildings galore, To take the place of trails and huts As 'twas in days of yore. There are many more improvements, I can't [emmerate?], In our city named Grand Island, And Nebraska is the State.

Alma [R.?] Miller

[DANNEBREG, NEBRASKA] I've in mind a little village Snuggled in among the hills, And a river alone beside it, With which to run the mills. 'tis such a friendly little place, I know you'll like it too, If you ever have the opportunity Visit there, please do. The population's mostly

Library of Congress

Danish Noted for their hospitality, Good natured, smiling, thrifty, And as friendly as can be. The place itself's so pretty, With its well kept lawns and homes, For among the Danish people You'll not find any drones. And should you get so [acquainted?] I know you'll get confused With so many name identical But a system there is used. [Bach, Petersen, Jensen, Olsen,?] Of whom there are a [score?], Has his own prefix or affix, Wait, — I'll explain this more. They say, "Big-Ollie-Jensen," Or "Ollie-Jensen-on the hill," Or "Ollie-Jensen-n-the-grocery-store," Or "Ollie-Jensen-from the mill." And should you linger there awhile And meet some of these [Dunes?], You'll be asked, I know, to partake Of foods for which they're famed. For in each one is bred and born An unfailing hospitality, You must come in and have a bite And drink some good coffee, In a village such as [Dannebrog?] You'll find a friendliness, a charm, That you'll never find in cities, Though you search the world around.

Alma R. Miller.